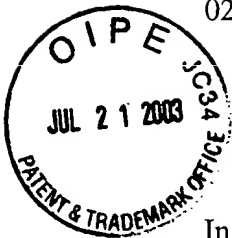


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yukio SAKAGAWA, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/512,836

Filed: February 25, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD  
AND APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

)  
: Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
: Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
:  
)  
: July 21, 2003

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 23 2003**

**Technology Center 2600**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is enclosed. Japanese Document 11-134519 is accompanied by an English language abstract, which Applicants believe sufficiently summarizes the disclosed invention.

The Japanese document was cited in an Office Action issued June 20, 2003, on counterpart Japanese patent application 11-246770. A copy of that Office Action is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner, that the next official communication indicate that such information has been considered, and that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the information listed thereon has been considered and return a copy of the initialed form.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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